



MEDIA RELEASE

Tucson Fire Department

Fire Chief Dan Newburn



Captain Norm Carlton
Public Information Office

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As warmer weather makes its way to our region, and the summer pool season quickly approaches, it is essential that parents take the necessary precautions to ensure that their children are safe in and around the water. Drowning is 100% preventable and yet it continues to occur in our city each year. The most effective way to prevent this tragedy is to create multiple layers of protection around your pool. Every pool needs to have the following:

- A "Designated Child Watcher": This is your first line of defense against drowning. The Designated Child Watcher is responsible for supervising the children when they are in or near the water. The Designated Child Watcher agrees to supervise the children without distraction for a given period of time. The Designated Child Watcher is given a life guard whistle which serves to remind them of their responsibility. When they are relieved by another adult, the whistle changes hands. This ensures that there is not a lapse in supervision.
- Perimeter Fencing: Every pool within Tucson city limits is required by law to have a five foot high, permanently fixed fence that completely surrounds the perimeter of the pool.
- Self Closing/Self Latching Gates: All pool gates need to be self-closing and self-latching. To test your gate, open the gate to body width and release. The gate should swing close and completely latch on its own.
- Check for Gaps or Openings: Make sure that your pool fencing does not contain gaps exceeding 4 inches. Check the entire perimeter of the fence regularly to look for erosion or unusual spacing between the ground and the bottom of the fence.
- Remove Climbable Items: Make sure that items such as patio furniture, trees, walls, landscape boulders, etc. are not within close proximity to the pool fence. These items could assist children in climbing the fence.
- Remove Toys From Pool Area: Remove items that may attract children to the water, make sure that toys, rafts or other attractive items have been put away after use.
- Learn CPR: Every parent should learn CPR. It may save your child's life someday.
- Learn To Swim: Ask your pediatrician when it is appropriate to have your children take swimming lessons.

We need to supervise our children around water, make sure they learn how to swim, and properly secure pools should there be a lapse in supervision. Children often drown in spite of an adult's presence; in swimming pools, during parties, and in bathtubs, right in our own homes. We can do better... Remember to watch your children around water.

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